

Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
Executive Order

Emergency Operations Center Contact: Earl Eues, Director of Terrebonne Parish OHS/EP

BY ORDER OF THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT OF TERREBONNE:

WHEREAS, The Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, confers upon the Parish President of Terrebonne Parish certain powers to deal with public disasters and emergencies, including “a natural event . . . which causes loss of life [or] injury” in order to ensure that preparations of this parish will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the health and lives of the people of Terrebonne Parish;

WHEREAS, the Parish President finds that “disaster” as defined by La. R.S. 29:723 encompasses an occurrence or imminent threat of an illness or health condition declared a pandemic by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and is believed to be caused by the appearance of a novel or previously controlled or eradicated infectious agent or biological toxin; and

WHEREAS, when the Parish President determines that a public disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, La. R.S. 29:727 empowers him to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in China and which has now been detected in many other countries, including in the United States. The virus has been named “SARS-CoV-2” and the disease it causes has been named “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”);

WHEREAS, According to the CDC’s website person-to-person spread has been subsequently reported in countries outside China, including in the United States, and some international destinations now have apparent community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19, as do some parts of the United States. Community spread means some people have been infected and it is not known how or where they became exposed;

WHEREAS, On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC), and on January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19;

WHEREAS a World Health Organization statement released March 7, 2020 stated that the global number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has surpassed 100,000;

WHEREAS as of March 11, 2020, the CDC’s website reports that 38 states, including the District of Columbia, have reported cases of COVID-19 to CDC, for a total of 938 confirmed cases, and that states have reported 29 deaths resulting from COVID-19;

WHEREAS on March 11, 2020, The World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak as a worldwide pandemic;

WHEREAS on March 9, 2020, a Louisiana resident, pursuant to CDEC protocol, was tested for COVID-19, with the test being presumptively positive;

WHEREAS in the last two days, several more Louisiana residents have tested presumptively positive for COVID-19;

WHEREAS the State of Louisiana has reason to believe that COVID-19 may be spread amongst the population by various means of exposure, therefore, posing a high probability of widespread exposure and a significant risk of substantial future harm to a large number of Louisiana citizens;

WHEREAS the President of Terrebonne Parish has consulted with the public health authority regarding COVID-19 and the Governor for State of Louisiana had declared a Public Health Emergency – Proclamation Number 25JBE2020;

WHEREAS the Parish President finds that the threat of a public health in Terrebonne Parish is imminent and constitutes a disaster which may result in emergency;

WHEREAS a declaration of emergency is necessary to allow state agencies to thoroughly prepare for any eventuality related to public health needs and deploy additional resources to assist local authorities, if necessary; and

WHEREAS the Secretary of the Department of Health and the State Health Officer has requested that a public health emergency be declared;

NOW THEREFORE, I, GORDON E. DOVE, President of the Parish of Terrebonne in the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:.

- Section 1:** Pursuant to The Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, a parish wide public emergency is declared to exist in the Parish of Terrebonne as a result of the imminent threat to life and health posed to Terrebonne Parish citizens by COVID-19.
- Section 2:** The Parish President’s office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is hereby expressly empowered to take any and all actions authorized under the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, in relation to this public emergency.
- Section 3:** The departments of Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government (TPCG) under direction of Parish President are hereby expressly empowered to take any and all actions authorized thereto under Title 29 and 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, under the State Sanitary Code (LAC Title 51), and under Chapter 7 of the Terrebonne Parish Code of Ordinances in relation to this public emergency and any other applicable federal, state or local laws;
- Section 4:** Pursuant to La. R.S. 29:724(D)(1), the Louisiana Procurement Code (La. R.S. 39:1551, *et seq.*) and Louisiana Public Bid Law (La. R.S. 38:2211, *et seq.*) and their corresponding rules and regulations are hereby suspended for the purpose of the procurement of any goods or services necessary to respond to this emergency.
- Section 5:** Pursuant to La. R.S. 29:732(A), prices charged or value received for goods and services sold may not exceed the prices ordinarily charged for comparable goods and services in the same market area at or immediately before the time of the state of emergency, unless the price by the seller is attributable to fluctuations in applicable commodity markets, fluctuations in applicable regional or national market trends, or to reasonable expenses and charges and attendant business risk incurred in procuring or selling the goods or services during the state of emergency.

Section 6: In addition to any authority conferred generally herein or by law, the Parish President's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness may consult with the Federal and/or State Department of health and/or Centers for Disease Control and shall have the primary jurisdiction, responsibility and authority for:

- A. Planning and executing local public health emergency assessment, mitigation, preparedness response, and recovery for the parish;
- B. Coordinating local public health emergency response between federal, state and local authorities;
- C. Collaborating with relevant federal government authorities, elected officials of other parishes, states, private organizations or companies;
- D. Coordinating local recovery operations and mitigation initiatives subsequent to public health emergencies;
- E. Organizing public information activities regarding local public health emergency response operations; and
- F. Taking any other measures deemed necessary and proper, as authorized by law.


Section 7: The following travel restrictions will apply to all parish employees:

- A. All parish employees intending to travel beyond the continental United States shall review the CDC's website at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices> to determine if the country to be visited has been identified as posing a threat of contracting COVID-19;
- B. All parish employees traveling on parish business to areas designated as Warning Level 2 or Level 3 or above by the CDEC are hereby directed to cancel or postpone these trips; all employees traveling internationally to other countries are hereby required to obtain specific authorization from the Parish President or his designee;
- C. All parish employees intending to travel internationally for non-official reasons are hereby directed to notify their supervisor and Human Resources Director, J. Dana Ortego, of the travel as soon as possible, but in no event later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to travel, and immediately upon return to the United States;
- D. All parish employees with household members who intend to travel or have traveled to areas designated as Warning Level 2 or Level 3 or above by the CDC are hereby directed to notify their supervisor and Human Resources Director of the travel as soon as possible, but in no event later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the household member's departure, to state the household member's expected date of return, and to notify their supervisor and Human Resources Director, J. Dana Ortego, immediately upon the household member's actual return to the United States; and
- E. All parish employees shall notify their supervisor and Human Resources Director, J. Dana Ortego, if the employee or a household member develops symptoms associated with COVID-19.
- F. Human Resources Director, J. Dana Ortego, shall have list of employees that must comply with section 7, and provide copies to Parish President,

Gordon Dove, Parish Manager, Michael Toups, Earl Eues, and Steve Ponville.

- Section 8:** The Office of Homeland Securities for TPCG, Public Safety Director for TPCG, Parish Manager for TPCG, and any other necessary persons and/or consultants are hereby directed to develop a set of guidelines for parish employees who are infected with COVID-19 or under quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19. Such guidelines shall include direction for the management of sick leave by parish employees and provide for direction, if possible, for the employee to work remotely. The guidelines developed by The Office of Homeland Securities for TPCG, Public Safety Director for TPCG, Parish Manager for TPCG shall be put into effect by this order.
- Section 9:** All Department Heads of TPCG shall keep abreast of current events, and shall consult TPCG authorities if necessary.
- Section 10:** This Order is not intended to invoke the emergency pay act.
- Section 11:** This Order is not intended to usurp the authority and powers of the Governor of the state of Louisiana or any federal authority to respond to this public health emergency.
- Section 12:** This Order shall adopt all legal immunities under La. R.S. 29:735.1, *et seq.*, La. R.S. 29:770(B), *et seq.*, and any other immunity under the law.
- Section 13:** This Proclamation shall be disseminated promptly by means reasonably calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public. The Proclamation shall also be promptly filed with the Parish President's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, and Department of Public Safety.
- Section 14:** All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the Parish, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the Parish may take in response to the effects of this event.
- Section 15:** The Executive Order signed and recorded in the public records of Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana on March 12, 2020, at COB 2599, page 802, Entry No. 1599989, shall be and is hereby declared null and void. The Recorder of Conveyances of Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana is requested and directed to cancel Entry No. 1599989 from the record and to make a note of the cancelation in the margin of the record to serve as occasion may require.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand
Officially at the Parish of Terrebonne, in the City of
Houma, on this 12th day of March 2020 at
6:00 P.m.



Gordon E. Dove
Parish President

NOTICE POSTED AT:
Terrebonne Parish web-page: tpcg.org
and
8026 Main Street, Suite 700
Houma, LA 70360